Alternate arrangements for irrigation

†5469. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present capacity for the use of water resources through big and medium dams has failed to work appropriately;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering on other cheap alternatives for irrigation in the country; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Government's focus has been towards a conjunctive, holistic and integrated approach for the use of water resources, which, *inter-alia*, include big and medium dams apart from other alternatives.

Cost escalation of the Sardar Sarovar Dam

5470. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the detail of original estimated cost of Sardar Sarovar Project and the original time schedule for its completion;

(b) whether it is a fact that the project has been inordinately delayed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the extent to which cost escalation has taken place due to this delay; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for completion of Project without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The Sardar Sarovar Dam Project was cleared for implementation in October, 1988 at an approved estimated cost (1986-87 price level) of Rs. 6406.04 crores. As per original plan of construction the project was scheduled to be completed by June 1998.

(b) to (e) The project has been delayed mainly on account of the matter being *sub-judice*. Cost escalation on account of the delay can be worked out only after the Hon'ble Supreme Court delivers the judgement.

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*